Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Down syndrome is one of the most frequently occurring chromosomal abnormalities, with over 80 percent of children with Down syndrome born to mothers under the age of 35 and affecting more than 400,000 individuals and their families in the United States; and,

Whereas, Individuals with Down syndrome are active and willing participants in the educational, vocational, social, and recreational aspects of our communities; and,

Whereas, The Buddy Walk™ has grown to over 280 walks across the country and around the world, will have over 250,000 people participate in walks in 2009, and will raise over $10.5 million to benefit national education, research, and advocacy initiatives; and,

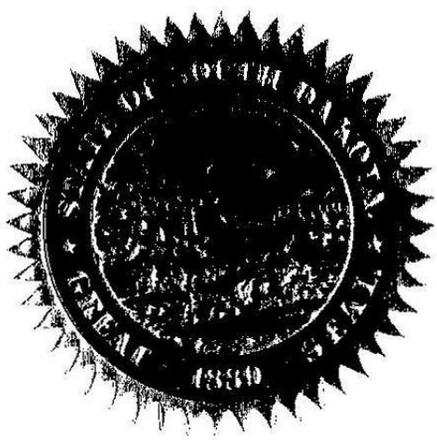
Whereas, The Ups and Downs Family Support Group nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing education, information, awareness events, social opportunities, and support to families of infants, children, and adults with Down syndrome; and,

Whereas, The Ups and Downs 2009 Buddy Walk™ will promote the awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in western South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, **I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 12, 2009, as

DOWN SYNDROME BUDDY WALK™ DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State